

Landfill Action Committee:

I am asking each committee member to help advertise an opportunity for an extremely valuable medical evaluation service. At last Tuesday's Committee meeting, Dr. William Carter from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry made an interesting offer to residents of Johnston, Cranston and Scituate who are impacted by odors from the landfill. Dr. Carter heads the group that manages Community Environmental Health Intervention Projects. Dr. Carter's program connects experts in environmental medicine to communities with health concerns about environmental contaminants. Dr. Carter made it clear what the program will and will not do.

The program will:

- Provide expert medical evaluation of individuals concerned about exposures to environmental contaminants. This service is provided within the community and is free of charge.
- Maintain the confidentiality of the individual medical records.
- Share the results of the program with the community by publishing aggregate data, only.
- Assist the community in developing its own resources for addressing environmental health concerns.

The program will not:

- Cover the costs of treatment.
- Get involved in lawsuits.
- Establish a cause-effect relationship between the exposures and the health impacts.
- Provide a medical evaluation to each and every person wanting it. Resources are limited to those with the most significant exposures.

Dr. Carter's program is a voluntary one and **will only be offered if a sufficient number of residents living near the landfill want a medical examination by an expert environmental health physician.** To assess community interest, I will be holding a meeting prior to the next regular committee meeting at:

Ferri Middle School  
July 11 at 5 pm.

To ensure that we reach all those who are interested in the program, I am requesting that each committee member help spread the word of this meeting. Specifically, agency representatives could contact individuals who have lodged complaints about landfill odors, Town officials could contact local health care professionals (EMT's, school nurses) who would know of residents with health conditions and concerns, and legislators and members of the public could contact their networks of friends and neighbors. The RI Department of Health will try and get press coverage.

I hope we will be able to take advantages of Dr. Carter's generous offer. Please contact me via email at [BobV@doh.state.ri.us](mailto:BobV@doh.state.ri.us) or call at 222-2030x2103.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Vanderslice, PhD,  
Chief, Office of Environmental Health  
Risk Assessment